

448 the reserve. The upshot of this episode was the discontinuance of the office of chief. The following gleanings, gathered during my often hasty visits to the reserve, half a century after those of Ober, represent fairly well what remains of the Carib language and culture.

DESCRIPTIVE AND PHYSICAL

- 133 The present Carib Reserve extends along some 8 miles of rugged, irregular coastline in the middle of Dominica's windward side. A series of rocky streams flow from the hills and enter the sea by way of deep wooded ravines and small inlets 2 to 3 miles apart. After a few hours' tropical downpour, they "come down," to use a local expression, changing for the time being into roaring and impassable torrents. Between, rounded shoulders or spurs rise 200 or 300 feet above the shore, and run back up to a central mountain ridge some 3 miles distant from and 2,000 feet above the Atlantic. From here, the land falls sharply in woodland and provision grounds to the valley of the Pegoua River, which forms the inland or western boundary of the reserve (fig. 11).

In all, there may be upward of 3,000 acres, but not more than a tenth of this is capable of any sort of cultivation, by far the greater part being nothing but rock and tuff. A good wide bridle path of red clay, extremely slippery in wet weather, winds in and out near the coast, up and down the steep sides of the intervening spurs. The 491 Caribs' dwellings, though usually well hidden by trees and shrub, are seldom far away from this road. There are but two settlements: 361 one, Bataka, being 15 minutes' climb from Kuaria (or Big River), the northern boundary; the other, St. Cyr, adjoining the road high above the Salybia River. Elsewhere their dwellings are scattered along the hillsides or in the ravines, wherever their owners' fancy or convenience has placed them, some close together, others more than half a mile from their neighbor.

- 161 Disease, malnutrition, and miscegenation—results of the American Indian's unfortunate but very real inadaptability to social and economic conditions other than his own—have reduced the tribe to about 400 souls, of whom less than a quarter are entirely free from negro blood.

144 Physically, the Caribs of Dominica (the product of a cross between the fierce Carib invader and the docile Arawak Islander in pre-Columbian days) are a small though sturdy people, the men averaging around 5 feet 3 inches and the women about 5 feet. I have seen a few decided dolichocephals, even among the purer types, though the latter are usually subbrachycephalic (especially the women), with an index 142 of between 79 and 81. They have straight black hair of coarse texture, which acquires in some a reddish tint through exposure to the sun's rays. Their foreheads are high and broad, their cheekbones

10:Neveu-Lemaire--1b K-5 (ca. 1920) 1921 STle Callinago
ST13



2. Orography of Dominica according to a Marine Map

175 "without finding anything besides forests and three or four small clearings full of banana trees" and saw there "the most beautiful trees in the world," he seems to describe it as it is today.

As for the several thousand Caribs who existed in St. Vincent in 1735, they mixed rapidly with the /133/ blacks, whence the name "black Caribs" or Caraibes noirs by which they are known. They were banished for the most part by the English, in 1795 and 1796, to the island of Ruatan and to Trujillo, on the northern coast of Honduras, where they have remained. In the course of the 18th and 19th centuries, the islands of St. Vincent and Dominica were also invaded by European colonists and by blacks who were becoming more and more numerous, so that the Caribs disappeared from there almost completely; there still existed 192 of them, more or less mixed with black blood, in St. Vincent, in 1881, but there are none today. In Dominica, their fate threatened to be the same if the English authorities, always /134/ foresighted, had not established a reservation on the island where the last representatives of a race on the point of dying out live in peace, in the very environment in which it existed at the time of the conquest.

131 The territory reserved for the Caribs is situated on the eastern shore of the island. In order to reach it from Roseau, the principal port, situated in the southwest, where we were anchored, it was necessary to cross the entire width of the island, following paths which were most uneven and impassable as far as carriages were concerned. We traversed on horseback the 24 kilometers which separated Roseau from the village of Rosalie, and then had to go up the eastern shore from south to north, for about 17 kilometers, passing Castle Bruce, in order to reach the southern tip of the Carib territory, which is called the "Carib district" or the "Carib reservation" by the English. This district is bounded on the north by a curved line in the form of a prolonged S stretched in a general north-east-south-west direction, cut in half by the 15° 30' line North Latitude; on the west by the path of the Two Branch river, from which the boundary line extends for some distance to form with it a rectangle which does not belong to the Caribs; on the south, by a straight line, in a general west-east direction, slanting a little to the south, to the Rayward River, whose course it follows to its mouth; finally, on the east by the Atlantic.

This territory has an area of 3700 acres, that is, 1497 hectares 39

133 areas, or in round numbers, 1500 hectares; it is very uneven and high mountains surround narrow ravines, where spring water trickles.

10:Neveu-Lemaire--5a K-5 (ca. 1920) 1921 ST13 Callinago
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3. Map of the Carib Territory

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
ST13 Callinago ST13

THE HYDROGRAPHY OF THE ISLAND CARRI OF DOMINICA

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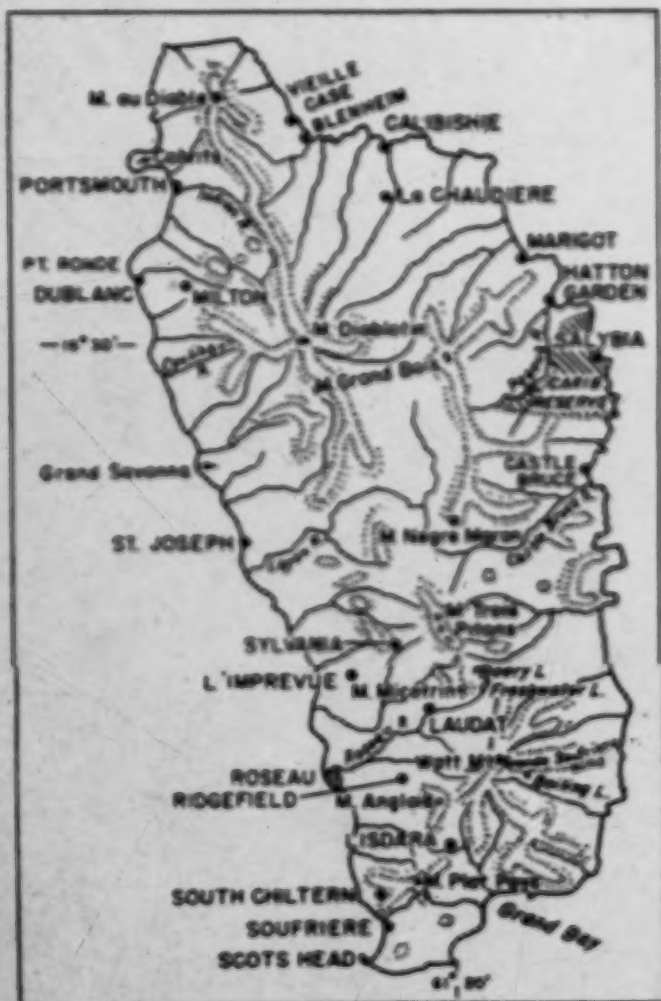


Fig. 2 - Dominica, showing location of the Carib Reserve on the windward coast. The island is about 30 miles long and up to 15 miles broad.

13: Hodge & Taylor N, E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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Fig. 3



Fig. 4

LANDSCAPES OF THE CARIB COAST OF DOMINICA. — Fig. 3 — Beach at Callinago. —
Fig. 4 — Wind-swept vegetation on Muffs near the Crayfish River in the Carib Reserve.

[opposite p. 522]

13: Hodge & Taylor N. E-5 (1930-1956) 1957
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137

[342]



Fig. 10

[491]



Fig. 11

CONTEMPORARY CARIB SITES AND LANDSCAPES IN DOMINICA. — Fig. 10 — Carib frame dwellings near the Crayfish River in the Reserve. — Fig. 11 — Footbridge over the Pagans River near its mouth.

[opposite p. 539]